

1953

THREE SCHOOLS

by

DOROTHY N. R. JACKSON

A Brief History of
THREE SCHOOLS

THE SCHOOL OF EXPRESSION.

**THE MARGARET EATON SCHOOL OF
LITERATURE AND EXPRESSION.**

THE MARGARET EATON SCHOOL.

1901 - 1941.

by

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PREFACE

It seems strange and significant that the official opening of Falconer Hall and The Margaret Eaton Library, by the University of Toronto, on November 21, 1952, should complete a cycle of events which began over fifty years ago.

It is equally noteworthy that more than twenty-five years ago women students and graduates of the University of Toronto were requesting a Women's Athletic Building, convenient, properly equipped, adequate for their use, and that now, with the opening of Falconer Hall, part of that desire has been realized.

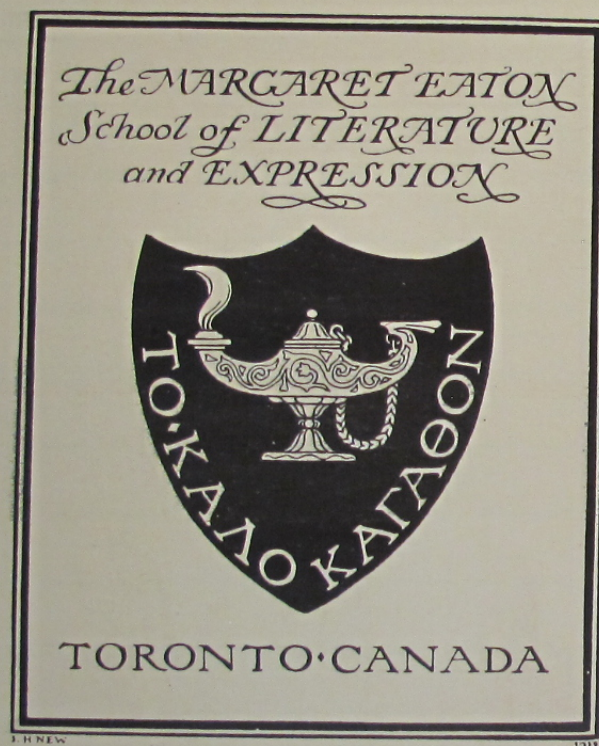
Falconer Hall, the fine residential building formerly known as Wymilwood, of Victoria University, is a social and administrative centre for women, and the first unit of what is planned as the University of Toronto Women's Athletic Building. The beautiful Margaret Eaton Library stands in the south west section. The building was named 'Falconer Hall' in honour of Sir Robert Falconer, President of the University of Toronto from 1907 to 1932.

The circumstances which linked The Margaret Eaton Library with the University of Toronto, involved: the opening, in 1901, of The School of Expression; the incorporation, in 1906, of this School into The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression; the reorganization, in 1925, which resulted in The Margaret Eaton School; and finally, in 1941, the merging of The Margaret Eaton School into the University of Toronto, to establish the School of Physical and Health Education.

The Margaret Eaton Library, which includes the books of all these Schools, was the gift of the T. Eaton Company Limited to the University of Toronto in memory of Margaret Wilson Eaton (Mrs. Timothy Eaton), the founder of The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression.

The brief history which follows has been written to commemorate the hopes and dreams, the sacrifices and the triumphs, of those who were a part of the life of the three Schools, from 1901 to 1941.

D.N.R.J.



A Brief History of THREE SCHOOLS

Forty years! The span of time which covers the history of the three Schools, takes the mind backward to the beginning of the twentieth century, and beyond to ancient Greek traditions.

The three institutions, from 1901 to 1941, sent out graduates to fill important positions in various parts of the world, and created an unique record in the educational pattern of Canada.

These Schools were:

1901 - 1906 The School of Expression.

1906 - 1925 The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression.

1925 - 1941 The Margaret Eaton School.

In 1900, Emma Scott Raff, a young widow, was teaching at Victoria University in Toronto. She was convinced that literature could become a living art through the medium of the voice.

Encouraged by the Reverend Nathaniel Burwash, Chancellor of Victoria University, and guided by her own unshakeable faith, she opened a studio, in 1901, which was named: 'The School of Expression'. It was located above the old Traders Bank Building at the corner of Bloor and Yonge Streets—now the site of the Toronto Ladies' Club, above the Bank of Commerce. The interpretation of literature, the problems of voice production, and the promotion of physical education, thereafter, became the life work of that remarkable woman.

During the early years of the School, all classes in 'Physical Culture' were conducted in the gymnasium of Annesley Hall of Victoria University. The students were directed to co-ordinate their studies with the regular courses in the Faculty of Arts, and as they were registered at Victoria University, they had the privilege of making application for residence in Annesley Hall.

Mrs. Scott Raff contended that more attention should be given to the spoken word in education, and that earnest efforts should be made to improve the quality of voice, the health and grace of body, the imagination, and the artistic aptitudes of all students.

The motto chosen for the School was:

ΤΟ ΚΑΛΟΚΑΓΑΘΟΝ

'A Sound Mind in a Sound Body.'

It was symbolized in the School crest by the Greek torch encircled by a laurel wreath.

A statement of the purpose of the School appeared in the Calendar of 1905-1906, and was as follows:

"Believing that we can give nothing to our fellow-men but ourselves, and that our best self can only be revealed through co-ordination of mind and body, we aim to give such training that the physical, mental, and moral needs of the pupil may be equally supplied."

Included also in this Calendar was a message from Chancellor Burwash, a part of which is quoted:

"Our inner spiritual life and its expression are inseparably connected. Our thought, feeling and purpose, as they rise in our own consciousness, are already expressed, first to ourselves and then to others. It is equally true that the perfection of this inner life depends on the perfection of its expression. A thought that is not fully, clearly and adequately expressed is not fully, clearly and adequately conceived. Hence, in all ages, expression has been an important part of education. The prevailing method of education to-day cultivates written rather than vocal expression. This we regard as a very serious defect. Our most healthy, natural, and our highest spiritual life, is not that of the closet alone. It is face to face with our fellow-men, and in the great struggle of our active life that our best is called forth. As it is called forth, it at once finds expression in attitude, in countenance, and in spoken word, or act."

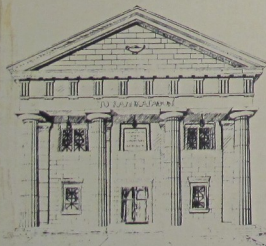
By 1905 the School of Expression had outgrown the accommodation of the studio at Bloor and Yonge Streets. Mrs. Scott Raff recorded that Mr. Timothy Eaton, at his summer residence in Muskoka, said to her: "Go to Toronto and get Dr. Burwash to go with you, and buy land for a school in which to incorporate your teaching."

Action on this suggestion was taken at once. Land was secured and a building erected on North Street, now Bay Street, just south of Bloor Street. Mr. Harry McGee was appointed as the representative of the T. Eaton Company Limited to confer on the plans. The architect was Mr. W. R. Mead, and Thomson Brothers were the builders. Land, building and furnishings were the gift of Mr. Timothy Eaton for his wife. In 1906, a charter of incorporation as a School was obtained, and in honour of Mrs. Eaton, the School was named:

The Margaret Eaton School
of Literature and Expression.

The handsome grey stone building, with imposing Greek pillars, was considered to be one of the finest examples of pure Grecian architecture

*Calendar 1918-1919.



on this continent. In Toronto it was referred to as: 'The Greek Temple'. The impressive entrance was supplemented in the interior by panelled halls and furniture of clean-cut subdued lines. The recital hall and administrative offices were located on the ground floor; the principal's studio on the second floor. Appropriately, the caretaker was named 'Hermes'.

The aim of the School was two-fold: to establish the highest standards in the training of teachers in Literature, Dramatic Art and Physical Education, and to furnish special courses for personal culture.

The new motto adopted for the School was:

TO KAAOKATAΘON

'We Strive for the Good and the Beautiful.'

Olive green and white became the School colors, and the wreath-encircled torch was replaced by the lamp of learning as the School crest.

The Board of Directors, the Advisory Council, and the Principal were responsible for the administration. The Calendar for the year 1907-1908 lists these groups, and the members of the Faculty as follows:

Directors

Mr. Timothy Eaton

Chancellor Burwash	Mrs. T. Eaton
Mr. John C. Eaton	Mr. Harry McGee
Mrs. N. Burwash	Mrs. Scott Raff

Mr. R. Y. Eaton

Advisory Council

Reverend Dr. Withrow	Miss Florence Withrow
Dr. F. H. Torrington	Mrs. F. H. Torrington
Dr. F. Tracey	Mrs. V. M. Sweetnam
Professor Reynar	Mrs. Lillian Massey-Treble
Mr. E. R. Wood	Mrs. Josephine Burnside

Faculty

Mrs. Scott Raff, F.C.M., Principal
Miss Gertrude Philp, F.C.M.
Miss Florence Withrow, B.A.
Miss Charlotte Ross, B.A.
Mrs. W. H. Hincks, A.T.C.M.
Miss Edna G. Mills
Miss Helen Ward Armington
Mrs. V. M. Sweetnam, F.C.M.

Secretary

Miss Mary M. Thrall

By 1910, with a group of twenty-nine graduates, the School was established as a centre for Language, Literature, Dramatic Art, and Physical Education.

An appreciation of the great heritage of literature was the focal point of the School. Graduates will recall vividly the Studio Recitals which were highlights of the Voice Production classes, and the various series of plays presented by the Department of Dramatic Art. In this respect The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression definitely may be considered to have been a forerunner of the Canadian Little Theatre Movement.

The first 'Tuesday Evening Literary Class', organized by Mrs. Scott Raff for the study of Browning, opened in 1910 with an attendance of ten. Five years later the membership was two hundred and eleven.

Dramatic ability in the revival of Greek plays demanded the balance of mental development and physical perfection which is the heart of the Greek philosophy. Ways and means were sought to vary the avenues of expression through dancing and gymnastics. Leadership in this connection was provided first by Miss Helen Ward Armington, a graduate of the Sargent School, Boston, and then by Miss Constance Wreyford from the Hemenway Gymnasium, Harvard University.

Following Miss Wreyford's resignation and marriage in 1910, Miss Mary G. Hamilton, of Fergus, Ontario, was appointed head of the work in Physical Education. In addition to teaching at The Margaret Eaton School, Miss Hamilton also was in charge of Physical Education at Bishop Strachan School, and Branksome Hall, two private schools for girls in Toronto.

Mrs. Scott Raff's interest in physical education was indicated in a paper she wrote and presented at the Victoria University Women's Educational Association, at Annesley Hall, in 1913. She stated in part:

"The teacher of to-day wants not so much the student who can stand on her head and perform with her feet, but the student who can stand on her feet and perform with her head."

Mrs. Scott Raff emphasized that in a system of education for expression, we should begin with the education of the body rather than the mind, for life is first physical and then mental.

In summarizing, the speaker said: "Our career in life is determined chiefly, not by accidental circumstances, environment, or education, but by our own will.

For there is nothing we cannot overcome;
Say not thine evil instinct is inherited,
Or that some trait inborn makes thine whole
life forlorn,
And calls down punishment that is not merited.

*Calendar 1912-1913.

Back of thy parents and grandparents lies
The Great Eternal Will.

That, too, is thine inheritance.

Strong, beautiful, divine,

Stout lever of success for him who tries.

Pry up thy thoughts with that great lever Will.

However deeply rooted sin's propensity,

However firmly set, I tell thee firmer yet
Is that vast power that comes from truth's
immensity.

Thou art a part of that great world, I say.

Its forces lie within thee, stronger far

Than all thy mortal sins and frailties are.

Believe thyself divine, and watch and pray.

There is no noble height thou can'st not climb.

All triumphs may be thine in time's futurity,

If, whatso'er thy fault, thou dost not faint nor halt,

But lean upon the staff of God's security.

Earth has no claim the soul cannot contest.

Know thyself part of the eternal source,

And nought can stand before thy spirit's force.

The soul's divine inheritance is best."

(Unknown).

In the spring of 1913 it was suggested that an Alumnae Association be formed. Seventeen members and three guests attended the inaugural luncheon. The daisy was chosen as the Alumnae flower, and it was decided that gold and white should be the graduate colors. The group held a luncheon meeting, once a month, in the Principal's office. This provided a memorable link between the undergraduates and the graduates, for on these occasions, coffee percolating for the guests during the last period of the morning, invariably proved a disturbing element to the students.

The Oracle, published May 29, 1914, was the first journal of the Alumnae Association. The opening comments, written by the Editor, Miss Grace Macartney, are perhaps traditional:

"The Editor was not only surprised but also grieved, to find her fellow-members of the Alumnae Association of so retiring or perverse a nature. It had been expected that the desk would be a-litter with manuscripts long before the date set for the luncheon. But, behold! not a line, not a word, reached the office until postal reminders had been sent out."

The following poem, which appeared in *The Oracle* explains, possibly, the choice of the daisy as the Alumnae flower:

The Daisy.

An angel found a daisy where it lay
On Heaven's highroad of transparent gold,
And, turning to one near, he said: "I pray
Tell me what manner of strange bloom I hold?
You came a long, long way—perchance you know
In what far country such fair flowers blow?"

Then spoke the other: "Turn thy radiant face,
And gaze with me down purple depth of space.
See, where the stars lie spilled upon the night,
Like amber beads that give a yellow light.
Note one that burns with faint but steady glow;
It is the Earth—and there these blossoms grow.
Some little child from that dear, distant land
Hath borne this hither in his dimpled hand."

Still gazed he down, "Ah friend," he said, "I too,
Oft crossed the fields at home where daisies grew."

—Virna Sheard, in *The Canadian Magazine*.

Eventually the group became too large for the Principal's office. The Alumnae then adopted the Diet Kitchen on Bloor Street, close to Bay Street, as the headquarters for their luncheon meetings. During these informal gatherings constructive work was planned and as a result a considerable amount was accomplished. Observation trips to the Wet Wash Laundry Limited, tea dances, and rummage sales, ranked high on the list of ways and means of augmenting the treasury. For a period of years, during and after the first World War, a French orphan became the chief concern of the Alumnae. Regularly, each Christmas, the Faculty, students and graduates joined in providing Christmas baskets and a collection of clothing, sports equipment and toys for various families in Toronto. This type of service continued and developed as the number of graduates increased.

As the years passed the work of the School progressed along two distinct lines: The Department of Dramatic Art, and the Department of Physical Education. The School Calendar of 1915-1916 provides the following information:

Dramatic Art

Experience proves that nothing in all our work so quickly develops ease, naturalness, spontaneity, imagination, clear enunciation and interpretive power, and so effectually banishes timidity, affectation, and self-consciousness, as the training in Dramatic Art, therefore, while this department may be used as a preparation for the stage, that is not its primary purpose. The value of such education can scarcely be over-estimated in its fundamental service to character.

Physical Education

A recognition of physical education as an essential in the curriculum of every school and college, has created a demand for thoroughly qualified teachers. Through the rapidly increasing interest in the establishment of playgrounds and recreation centres throughout the country, the demand for trained instructors and workers exceeds the supply. The aim of this department is to provide young women with a thorough training which will enable them to take advantage of these opportunities for service as teachers and supervisors of physical education in all its phases.

In 1916 Emma Scott Raff was married to Colonel George G. Nasmith, C.M.G., and, as Mrs. Scott Nasmith, continued her work as Principal of the School. In the Calendar of 1905-1906 the following reference to Colonel Nasmith appears:

"Lectures to be taken at the Lillian Massey School of Household Science: Physiology and Hygiene by John Malloch, M.B., Lecture on Chemistry of Food and Bread, by George Nasmith, M.A., Ph.D., Chemist, Provincial Board of Health."

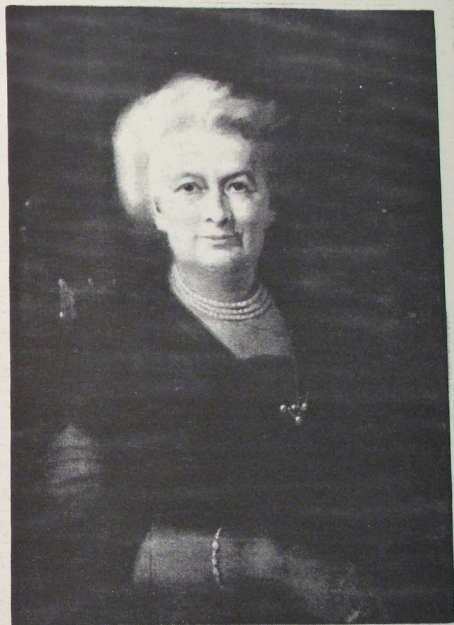
At the Commencement Exercises of 1918 Colonel Nasmith gave the address to the Graduating Class, part of which was as follows:

"The woman who is receiving her education to-day is fortunate, for she is living in a period when the old order of things is passing away and a new era is at hand. Life is infinitely richer and fuller in every respect than it was before the war began. Many things that before seemed of supreme importance, like money and position, no longer hold first place.

To-day is the day when the idea of public service reigns in the hearts of thinking people, and when men and women will tolerate and follow only those whom they know are true to the best interests and ideals of the nation

Your training here will have given you something that you cannot obtain in any other school that I know of; you will have higher ideals than when you came; you will have trained minds; you must have learned to work and to concentrate; you have learned what is most beautiful and best in life. Trust both your instincts and your judgment. They are not incompatible, and you will ultimately arrive, not at the goal to which you were predestined, but to that for which you have striven. There are great opportunities for work in the world to-day. It is your privilege to serve."

During this period contributions of note were made in the programme of the School by various members of the Faculty. A few of these included: Miss Gertrude Philp, and Miss N. Topley Thomas, Instructors in the Art of Expression; Fraulein Nothnagel, German; Mrs. Fausta Danard Aikens, English History; Miss Helene Rogers, Dramatic Art; and Miss Helen L. McFetridge, Expression and Dramatic Art. Miss McFetridge not only was a graduate of the School, but also a member of the Staff, a position she held for a period of ten years. In the list of Honors and Prizes in the Calendar of 1911, the following statement appears: "Miss Helen McFetridge has the highest standing in the School for Scholarship and Development, and is again worthy of the Optima Prize, but, as a student cannot win this prize a second time, it goes by reversion to Miss Sylvia McAllister, who stands second in scholarship."



In the Department of Physical Education, the early group of Instructors were: Dr. Annie Ross, Physiology and Hygiene; Miss Sylvia J. McAllister, Kinesiology; Miss Gertrude Moore, Physical Education; Miss Maude Crafter, Theory of Physical Education; and Miss Margaret A. MacGregor, Physical Education.

An important part of the life of the School during the war years, 1914 to 1918, was the patriotic and social work undertaken by the Faculty and students. The tradition of Friday afternoon Readings while fellow-members knitted, brought all those taking part into close relationship. A spirit of understanding and good fellowship was thus engendered. The presence of Mrs. Timothy Eaton, her gracious manner and the excellence of her voice as she read, made a lasting impression on all those who were present. The following statements selected from the School Calendars provide a brief record of these occasions:

Readings for 1915-1916

by

Mrs. Scott Raff, Mrs. Timothy Eaton, Members
of the Faculty and Students.

*"Friday afternoons will be set apart for work and reading. This club has done much for Relief Work during the past winter. The reading will be from Modern Drama, and will include the works of Lady Gregory, Synge, Yeats, Fiona Macleod, Maeterlinck, Ibsen, Hauptmann, and Galsworthy. These readings will begin promptly at four o'clock, and tea will be served afterwards by members of the Alumnae. Proceeds in aid of Relief Work."

**"In view of the seriousness of the crisis through which the world is passing, it has been deemed advisable to devote a portion of the School time and activity to patriotic work. Last year Friday afternoon was set apart for this purpose and as a consequence, the School was able to make liberal donations of hospital supplies and knitted articles. It is proposed to continue this work during the coming year."

***"Last May, Miss Mary G. Hamilton, Director of our Physical Education Department, arranged a Patriotic Fête which was held in the Mutual Street Arena. The object of this Fête was to raise funds for the Canadian Prisoners of War. Nearly four hundred and fifty students took part, including not only our own, but also those of Bishop Strachan School and of Branksome Hall, all of whom are under Miss Hamilton's direction. The Fête aroused great enthusiasm and was, by common consent, one of the most beautiful and interesting of its kind given before a Toronto audience. From the receipts, the combined Schools have been able to contribute \$4,000.00 to this good cause."

In 1918 the death of Chancellor Burwash, President of the School for seventeen years, caused deep sorrow. During his many years of service a close relationship between the School and Victoria University was maintained. At the opening of the School term in September 1918, the Board of Directors, Faculty and students, welcomed Mrs. Timothy Eaton as its new President, succeeding Dr. Burwash.

*Calendar 1915-1916. **Calendar 1916-1917. ***Calendar 1917-1918.

Expansion of the activities of the School, particularly in the Department of Physical Education, made additional space necessary. In January 1918 The Margaret Eaton School announced the important acquisition of the building at the corner of Yonge Street and McGill Street. This building, 413-415 Yonge Street, became the headquarters for the physical education programme, and was known as The Margaret Eaton School Extension. Miss Lillian B. LeVesconte was appointed as the Secretary in charge of the Extension Office.

According to general understanding, 413-415 Yonge Street, now known simply as, 415 Yonge Street, was purchased by Mr. E. R. Wood, at an early date, and held in readiness for the use of the Young Men's Christian Association. It served as the Central Branch of the Toronto Y.M.C.A. until 1913. With the erection of the new Y.M.C.A. building on College Street, 415 Yonge Street remained vacant for a few years. Then it was purchased by the T. Eaton Company Limited to be a recreation centre for the Company employees. In 1917 it opened as "The Eaton Girls' Club".

Soon after the beginning of the Club activities it was realized that the building was needed only during the evening hours, consequently, the School work took place during the day. The equipment and facilities of the School and the Club were shared jointly. To-day, after thirty-five years, 415 Yonge Street is still the home of the Eaton Girls' Club, where a most varied and successful recreational programme may be seen in action. The close co-operation between the School and the Club continues, only now, the School is the University of Toronto School of Physical and Health Education.

The facilities of this building were admirably suited, in 1918, to the needs of The Margaret Eaton School Extension. In addition to a well equipped gymnasium and a 'sanitary swimming tank', offices, common rooms, and the cafeteria were available for the Faculty and students. The swimming pool was under the supervision of Mr. George H. Corson. For a number of years the School provided individual and class lessons in swimming for outside groups.

In 1919 the Board of Directors was pleased to establish affiliation with the Toronto Conservatory of Music. It was gratifying to the Board and the Faculty of the School that an organization of such prestige as the Toronto Conservatory of Music should show this confidence in the work and equipment of a much younger School.

Outstanding among the members of the Faculty at that time was Madame François Goudis. Her cosmopolitan background, varied experiences, and stories of the Courts of Europe, fascinated and endeared her to the students. Classes in French conversation, and the presentation of French plays were an integral part of the life of the School. The Madame Goudis prize for French was coveted by all. While only one student each year gained the



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